



Late Fall 2020 Newsletter

The Foothills Food Bank — A Source of Hope and Help

Pam Di Pietro Nears Retirement



Pam Di Pietro, the executive director of the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center, will retire at the end of the year after 18 years of service. When she joined the organization, the Food Bank only served about 40 local families per month. Today, it has become one of the most respected food banks in Maricopa County and serves almost 7,000 seniors and families annually from its Cave Creek and Black Canyon City locations.

During her tenure, Pam has had many notable achievements. The following represent just a few:

- Opening a second location in Black Canyon City in 2017 and growth from 400 square feet to 11,400 square feet.
- Creating a Snack Pack program to provide weekend food for over 200 children.
- Creating the Adopt-A-Family holiday giving program serving over 533 client families and seniors.
- Expanding financial assistance and resources to clients who need help paying for rent, utilities, medical bills or to fund car repairs, providing over \$85,000 in aid.
- Expanding our volunteer base to 400 individuals donating over 40,000 hours.
- Developing deep relationships with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, three St. Vincent de Paul conferences, the Salvation Army, Arizona Association of Food Banks, Alliance of Arizona Non-Profits, Foothills Caring Corps, Carefree Kiwanis, American Legion Local #34 and other community businesses and organizations.
- Secured one van donated by Kiwanis, then five refrigerated trucks from an anonymous donor.
- Shepherded financial assets to leave all of the Food Bank facilities mortgage-free.

Pam's unrelenting vision to fight hunger but also give families hope to move forward by providing a safe, comfortable and dignified place to get food and meet with kind, helpful staff and volunteers is a blessing to the community. The extensive network of food retail partners helps bridge the gap of food insecurity.

In retirement, Pam will continue to serve on the Maricopa Human Services Commission, on which she has served for the past four years.

Pam's giant heart has impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. What a legacy to be proud of! We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Thank you, Pam, from all of your clients, staff and friends in the communities the Food Bank serves.



Adopt-A-Family and Help Santa

Mission

The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center provides food, referral information and financial assistance to individuals and families in need within our service area.

Hours of Operation

In Cave Creek

Monday thru Friday –

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings-

5:30 to 7 p.m.

In Black Canyon City

Tuesday and Thursday –

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Care Club Pick-up

3rd Thursday of each month –

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

to 8 p.m.

Mailing Address

Cave Creek

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive

Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Black Canyon City

34550 Old Black Canyon

Highway

Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

PO BOX

PO Box 715

Carefree, AZ 85377

Phone

Cave Creek (480) 488-1145

Black Canyon (623) 374-9441

Fax

Cave Creek (480) 488-9008

Black Canyon (623) 374-9434

Email

info@foothillsfoodbank.com

Website

FoothillsFoodBank.com

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/FoothillsFoodBank)

[FoothillsFoodBank](https://www.facebook.com/FoothillsFoodBank)

Twitter

[222.twitter.com/foothillsfood](https://twitter.com/foothillsfood)

2020 Adopt-A-Family

[Sign Up Now Through December 3 at www.foothillsfoodbank.com](http://www.foothillsfoodbank.com)

2020 is our 18th year of the Adopt-A-Family holiday giving program. Last year, a record 1,502 individuals and seniors from 533 families participated and we expect the need to be even greater this year. Because of Covid-19 and our goal to keep everyone safe, we are hosting drive-up client parties on December 12th in Black Canyon City and 13th in Scottsdale.



Instead of wrapped gifts, we are asking you to provide a gift card to each client and their family members along with new family games. This will allow families the flexibility to buy holiday gifts, get a haircut, buy gasoline or pay bills.

Please provide:

- \$50 Walmart or VISA gift cards

- New family games (e.g., dominoes, Candyland, Uno, Connect4, checkers, Yahtzee, Monopoly)

As in the past, drop off your donations at the Holland Center:

Saturday, December 5 – Thursday, December 10

34250 N. 60th Street in Scottsdale

Please consider getting your group of friends and neighbors involved and create an Adopt-A-Family “drive” to collect the items from the list above.

Thanks to the NVJCA!

So far this year, the North Valley Jewish Community Association (NVJCA) has donated over 1,300 pounds of food to the Foothills Food Bank through the generous donations of their members. This is in addition to NVJCA’s annual participation in the holiday Adopt-A-Family, children’s birthday bags, Passover and other initiatives in support of the Food Bank.



NVJCA dedicates 100% of its social action efforts in support of the Foothills Food Bank.

We thank them for their community spirit and support!

Very Special Food Bank Elves

BCC Adds Staff

Nancy Wiederhold

Nancy Wiederhold is the newest addition to the staff at our Black Canyon City food bank location. Nancy works 4 days per week assisting manager Kim Basile and helping with all of the warehouse functions: unloading, sorting, ordering, weighing food in and out and processing deliveries from St. Vincent and our Cave Creek warehouse. She also sets up the farmers' market on Tuesdays and Thursdays for our clients' convenience and generally keeps the food bank clean, well-stocked and organized. Nancy praises all of our BCC volunteers who work with her to keep the facility running smoothly.



Nancy spent much of her life in Philadelphia working as a medical assistant and then moved to Aspen, Colorado where she was able to meet a few celebrities like Michael Douglas. Finally tiring of the snow, she migrated to Arizona in 2008. She enjoys working at the Food Bank and lists camping and gardening as her favorite hobbies during her free time.

Welcome, Nancy!

Special Delivery Coach

Kids Need to Read, the Page Coach vehicle, delivered 1,483 Highlights magazines in English and Spanish and puzzle books for our young clients to enjoy Fall reading. The organization's mission is to help children discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind.



We greatly appreciate their generosity and the service of coach driver Jessica Payne.

Visit www.kidsneedtoread.org for more details about this terrific non-profit organization.

Volunteers Help in Many Ways.....

Volunteer Profile

Klaus Sahlberg

Klaus Sahlberg has been a Food Bank driver for over 4 years. He works with our retail partners and picks up fresh and non-perishable goods two times per week. The job is physical – loading and unloading thousands of pounds of food at the Cave Creek warehouse and restocking crates for retailers' next donation.

Before retirement, Klaus owned a linen business in Arizona. He also volunteers at Reigning Grace Ranch twice a week. They are a 15-acre horse and animal rescue organization who believe in redeeming the horse and child, strengthening families and discovering the spirit.

Klaus also loves to hike, play tennis and meet new people.

We appreciate his kind spirit!



Special Thank You to Peni Long

Peni Long began her relationship with the Food Bank 10 years ago when she started a food drive with neighbors, many of whom are snowbirds and donated goods from their pantries and refrigerators as they left for a summer retreat. Since then, she has volunteered as creator, designer and editor of this newsletter. As an English major and writer of stories and poems, she has used her talents to gain awareness of the Food Bank, promote events and charitable giving and help us recognize and thank sponsors, donors and volunteers.

We thank Peni for her service to the Food Bank and her community and wish her well in retirement.

Nativity Event Cancelled

Our annual Nativity event is cancelled because of COVID.

Please visit our website to make a donation in honor of the event.



.....to Manage and Serve

Board President's Letter

As we are all experiencing, it has been an unusual and challenging year. What is not unusual has been the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers. I want to personally thank each donor for their generosity allowing us to serve those in need in our community. I also want to extend thanks to our dedicated volunteers who have tirelessly worked in a changing and challenging environment to stock, pack and deliver food to those we serve. Without our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, we could not carry out the Food Bank's mission of fighting hunger and giving hope.



Finally, I want to thank Pam and her staff for their commitment during these challenging times as they continually adapted processes and procedures that allowed the Food Bank to safely and efficiently serve the needy in our community. This is just the latest example of the extraordinary leadership that Pam has provided during her 18 years as our Executive Director.

Please support our mission by making a donation and taking advantage of the Arizona tax credit.

Sincerely,

Chuck Laurenti

Yes, Dear!



Like many other spouses of non-profit leaders, Pete Di Pietro has been successfully "voluntold" to help out on a regular basis in a number of ways:

- Making special monthly pick-ups of food, such as pallets of juice, jelly, peanut butter, soup and other super-heavy non-perishables.
-
- Keeping the vans serviced and making bank and post office runs.
- Purchasing gift cards for the Adopt-A-Family holiday program.
- Doing special pick-ups from food drives.
- Accompanying Pam on client home visits.

Along with Pam, we wish Pete a sweet retirement.

May he never see another milk crate again!

Sprouts Serves.....and Empty Bowls Rocks!

Support Grab 'n Give and Help Bring Food and Smiles to Others



For the past five years Sprouts has made it easy for their customers to give back to the community.

Simply grab a bag and take it to the checkout lane. Each bag is prefilled with items from brands that will help bring joy and nutrition to those in need this holiday season.

Support the Grab 'n Give program and help us bag hunger!

Volunteers Marilyn Talboys and Jeanne Crawford
Organize Deliveries

Empty Bowls Virtual Event a Major Success!

Although this year's Empty Bowls fundraising event was completely virtual, the bowl sale was a success and the auction was better than ever! Together, the two parts of the event raised \$14,097 for the Foothills Food Bank. A big Thank You to everyone involved!

Carole Perry
Event Chairperson



Wall of TilesPermanent Recognition

Our Wall of Giving

Foothills Food Bank has a beautiful exterior wall of tiles that showcases our patrons' commitment to the clients we serve.

The glass tile mural offers donors a chance to help their neighbors or honor the memory of a loved one by becoming a permanent part of the Food Bank's Cave Creek headquarters.

The tile wall is displayed in a prominent location and eventually will feature 1,000 tiles, each 2" by 5", etched with the names of the individual or business sponsors who have donated \$150 or more.



Call 480-488-1145 for a tile pledge form! Thank you!

Wish List.....What We Always Need

CANNED PASTA
CREAM SOUPS
BOTTLED JUICE
BOTTLED WATER
CANNED FRUIT
PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY
PAPER TOWELS
PASTA & RICE SIDES (RICE A RONI)
XL GLOVES



**Feeding the
Community**



Fighting Hunger Giving Hope

LATE FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Everyone needs a helping hand sometimes.

2020 Board of Directors

President	Charles Laurenti
Vice President	Chuck Weirauch
Secretary	Lory Olsson
Treasurer	Glenn Ford
Directors	Rhea Acosta
	Darrilyn Adams
	Dirk Dijkerman
	Terry Dowd
	Jill Hieb
	Joe McCabe

In addition to our wonderful staff and volunteers who work daily to help us fulfill our mission, we are blessed with a Board of Directors dedicated to helping us do so in the most effective and efficient way possible. They volunteer their time to support the staff, develop new programs and procedures and help us grow to serve our growing community. Many thanks to them for their time and dedication.

Shop Smile at Amazon

If you shop at Amazon.com you can help the Food Bank by choosing us as your Smile charity. It's easy and every dollar you spend sends 0.5% of the purchase price to us—and we all know that every penny counts! Log onto www.smile.amazon.com and select the Food Bank as your charity of choice. Then shop at Smile and continue giving with no cost to you!

Fry's Rewards Program Rewards Us

The next time you shop at Fry's, take a moment to help the Food Bank. Simply give the code 20514 or mention the Foothills Food Bank at checkout, and Fry's will contribute to us through its Community Rewards program. For more information, call 480.488.1145, email FryscommunityRewards@frysfood.com, or visit <https://www.frysfood.com>.

2020 Charitable Donation Form

The Charitable Tax Credit helps the Foothills Food Bank continue its mission. Support the food bank and reduce your Arizona tax bill with a tax credit of up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples. This year the state is requiring donors to use a code when making a donation. The new **Qualified Charitable Organization Code for the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center on your Arizona income tax returns is 20514.** For more information, visit www.azdor.gov, click on Tax Credits, Contributions to QCOs and QFCOs or call 1-800-843-7196. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Amount Donated _____ Amount enclosed _____

Make check payable to Foothills Food Bank.

-Or-

Please charge my VISA _____ MC _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Card number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code (3 digits on back of card) _____

Signature _____ Date _____